



BOROUGH OF WIDNES.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH.

WIDNES:

W. WILLIAMS, "BOROUGH" PRINTING WORKS, 12 & 14, HUTCHINSON STREET

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— 1896. —

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TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WIDNES.

—:o:—

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1896.

I am glad to observe that further progress has been made in the sanitary work of the Borough, particularly in the making of private streets and back passages, in sewerage, and also in the reconstruction of defective privies and ash-pits into water closets.

Deaths—

The total number of deaths registered during the year 1896 was 474, giving a death rate of 14·8 per thousand of the population, as against 734 deaths registered in 1895, or 22·9 per thousand.

The deaths of children under one year, including premature births, numbered 150, or 4·6 per thousand, and of those between the ages of 1 and 5 years, 55, or 1·7 per thousand.

Deaths of persons under 1 year	150
„ „ over 1 year and under 5	55
„ „ „ 5 years „ 15	25
„ „ „ 15 „ „ 25	34
„ „ „ 25 „ „ 65	139
„ „ „ above 65	71
Total.....	474

Births—

The total number of births registered was 982 (495 males and 487 females), giving a birth rate of 30·6 per thousand of the population. The births in the year 1895 numbered 1,155, giving a birth rate of 36·09 per thousand of the population.

Inquests—

There were 27 inquests held during the year.

Mortality Returns—

The following table gives the Mortality Return in each Ward during the year, 1896 :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	1895
Farnworth	2	3	4	7	4	3	10	—	3	9	4	3	52	71
Halton	11	3	6	6	6	1	5	5	3	2	3	4	55	108
Simms Cross.....	10	9	5	10	6	5	17	11	6	10	6	9	104	164
Victoria	5	8	5	10	8	3	5	13	12	7	8	7	91	146
Waterloo	6	5	8	6	5	6	8	17	11	2	4	13	91	128
West Bank	5	3	9	8	5	6	6	9	10	7	6	7	81	117
	39	31	37	47	34	24	51	55	45	37	31	43	474	734

Zymotics—

The number of cases of Zymotic Disease notified during the year was 434. Of these there were 154 cases of Scarlet Fever, with three deaths; as against 601 in 1895, with 26 deaths; also 214 cases of Typhoid, with 34 deaths, as against 54 in 1895, with 11 deaths, and distributed as follows :—

	Scarlet Fever.				Typhoid.			
	1895		1896		1895		1896	
Farnworth Ward.....	92	...	12	...	1	...	8	
Halton ,,	80	...	24	...	13	...	19	
Simm's Cross ,,	188	...	62	...	10	...	14	
Victoria ,,	186	...	38	...	7	...	34	
Waterloo ,,	32	...	2	...	13	...	70	
West Bank ,,	23	...	16	...	10	...	69	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	601		154		54		214	

Typhoid or Enteric Fever—

The number of cases notified was 214. Of these 76 were treated in the Isolation Hospital, with 17 deaths. The remainder, 139, were treated at their homes, resulting in 17 deaths.

The distribution of Enteric Fever in the Borough was as follows:—

Farnworth Ward	...	...	...	8
Halton ,,	...	...	...	19
Simm's Cross ,,	...	...	...	14
Victoria ,,	...	...	...	34
Waterloo ,,	...	...	...	70
West Bank ,,	...	...	...	69
			<hr/>	
				214

The following is a table of cases of Typhoid or Enteric Fever notified during the past seven years to have existed in the Borough :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Deaths
1890	10	5	6	5	3	3	10	18	9	16	10	14	109	15
1891	3	7	4	3	—	1	1	3	11	10	12	12	67	9
1892	4	6	5	1	2	9	10	18	34	8	6	4	107	26
1893	1	—	—	1	2	4	31	45	43	24	33	2	186	32
1894	3	3	6	2	1	5	11	28	23	2	8	5	116	24
1895	4	2	6	2	2	0	2	12	10	4	7	3	54	11
1896	2	3	6	4	—	5	18	80	51	23	12	10	214	34
	27	26	33	18	10	27	83	204	181	87	88	50	853	151

In accordance with a resolution of the Town Council, passed in pursuance of a letter from the Local Government Board, of the 9th November last, I prepared a Special Report upon the prevalence of Fever in the Borough during the half-year ending 31st December, 1896, and the same was duly submitted to the Town Council and a copy thereof forwarded to the Local Government Board. A copy of this Report is annexed hereto.

Smallpox—

One case was notified and was immediately removed to the Isolation Hospital. The house in which the case occurred was thoroughly disinfected, with the satisfactory result that there was no further spread of the disease.

Erysipelas—

Thirty-six cases of Erysipelas were notified. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup—

There were 18 cases of these diseases notified. Three deaths occurred from Diphtheria and two from Membranous Croup.

Puerperal Fever—

Four cases were notified, but no death occurred.

Cholera—English—

Three cases were notified, and in two of the cases death ensued.

Measles—Whooping Cough—

These diseases are not notifiable.

During the year only one death occurred from Measles, as compared with 56 deaths in the previous year.

There were 10 deaths from Whooping Cough, as compared with 39 last year.

Sewers—

These are flushed systematically and more frequently during the hot weather.

In September last the Town Council inspected the sewers in West Bank Ward and in Waterloo Road in special reference to the action of the tides thereon and the ventilation thereof, and as to their adaptability to the water carriage system, and decided that such sewers were adequate for carrying away all sewage which might be discharged through them by the use of the water carriage system or otherwise, but referred the questions of the action of the tides thereon and the ventilation thereof to the Highway Committee to report upon, and that Committee has now the matter under their consideration.

Sanitary Improvements—

The conversion of foul and dilapidated privies into the water carriage system is still being carried out.

Water Supply—

I am indebted to Mr. Isaac Carr, A.M.I.C.E., the Gas and Water Engineer to the Corporation, for the following analysis by Dr. Camp-

bell Brown of the town's water, and also for the following estimate of the quantities of water used for Domestic and Manufacturing purposes during the year ending 25th March, 1897.

ANALYSIS OF WATER.

"I hereby certify that the samples of water received by rail on the 7th day of May, 1896, yield on analysis the following parts per 100,000.

Mark and Denomination of Sample.	Stocks Well	Netherley
Total solid matter in solution	16·48	13·2
Organic Carbon	·033	·043
Organic Nitrogen	·017	·017
Ammonia	·000	·002
Ammonia from Organic Matter—by distillation with Alkaline Permanganate . . .	·002	·002
Nitrogen as Nitrates	·24	·24
Total combined Nitrogen	·257	·259
Combined Chlorine	1·9	2·3
Hardness—Temporary	3°·15	1°·29
„ Permanent	9°·43	7°·29
„ Total	12°·58	8°·58

Both samples are of excellent quality

(Signed) J. CAMPBELL BROWN.

University College,
Liverpool."

Estimate of Water used for Domestic and Manufacturing Purposes.

Domestic Purposes	...	...	...	221,000,000 gals.
Manufacturing „	...	...	...	637,000,000 „

Sanitary Work Accomplished—

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Lowe, has again carried out the work energetically and efficiently. I have pleasure in appending his report hereto.

Common Lodginghouses—

These have been regularly inspected, and generally have been found in a clean and sanitary condition.

Cowsheds, &c.—

I have inspected all the Cowsheds in the Borough, and found them kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Slaughterhouses—

I have also visited the Slaughterhouses and found them in good order.

Bakeries—

The Bakeries are kept clean and in a satisfactory condition.

Inspection of Manufactories—Sanitary Conveniences—

Referring to my Annual Report of last year, several of the manufactories have been provided with workmen's closets on the water carriage system, and in other manufactories similar arrangements are being made.

Food and Drugs Acts—

Superintendent Keighley, of the Widnes Police Division of the County of Lancaster, has kindly given the following return :—

*“ Return of Samples taken, Persons proceeded against, and Penalties
inflicted during 1896—*

Number of Samples taken.	Persons proceeded against.	Sample.	Fine.	Costs.	Total.
46	2	Coffee	£1 0 0	£1 1 10	£2 2 10
		Milk	1 0 0	1 1 8	2 1 8
			£2 0 0	£2 3 6	£4 3 6

J. KEIGHLEY, Superintendent.”

Hospitals—

Isolation Fever Hospital—

There were 33 cases of Scarlet Fever removed to and treated at the Isolation Hospital, with no deaths ; 76 cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever, with 17 deaths, and one smallpox case, which recovered.

The following is a Table of the Cases treated in the Isolation Fever Hospital since 1890 :—

	Scarlet Fever	Deaths.	Enteric Fever	Deaths.
1890	41	3	51	5
1891	15	1	31	6
1892	11	1	35	9
1893	2	0	73	21
1894	31	1	31	8
1895	82	5	42	6
1896	33	0	76	17
	215	11	339	72

The Typhoid Fever was of a very severe type. It is of the greatest importance to have cases of Enteric Fever notified and removed at the earliest opportunity to the Isolation Hospital. Those cases that are removed at an early period of their illness make a better and more satisfactory recovery. I would further emphasise my remarks in last years' report, "that it is extremely dangerous to remove patients during the intestinal ulcerative stage of the disease, as well as the fact that isolation prevents the spread of the Enteric poison."

Extension—

In my last Annual Report I reminded the Town Council that there was not sufficient accommodation for the Staff of the Hospital. Since then, at the request of the Council, I have more fully reported upon the requirements of the Hospital, and in addition to recommending the provision of an Administrative Block I have suggested that further Hospital accommodation should be provided. The matter is now under the consideration of the Council.

I annex hereto a copy of my Report and also a copy of a Report prepared by Mr. J. S. Sinclair, A.M.I.C.E., of the same date, upon the proposed extensions.

Accident Hospital—

During the past year there were 105 cases treated in this institution, with eight deaths.

The first death occurred 6½ hours after admission.

„	second	„	34 hours after admission.
„	third	„	2 days after admission.
„	fourth	„	18 hours after admission.
„	fifth	„	32 hours after admission.
„	sixth	„	9½ hours after admission.
„	seventh	„	4½ hours after admission.
„	eighth	„	4 hours after admission.

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS DURING YEAR, 1896.

Population at all ages :—

Census, 1891	...	...	...	...	...	30,011
Estimated to middle of 1896	...	...	...	...	...	32,057
Registered Births...	...	...	...	...	...	982
Registered Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	474

Mortality from all causes :—

Under one year	...	...	...	...	...	150
One and under five years	...	...	...	...	...	55
Five and under fifteen years	...	...	...	...	...	25
Fifteen and under twenty-five years	...	...	...	...	...	34
Twenty-five and under sixty-five years	...	...	...	...	...	139
Sixty-five and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	71
						<hr/> 474

General Statistics—

I append (*a*) Tables of Births and Deaths during the year 1896, and (*b*) Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the same period.

General—

I again beg to thank the Members of the Medical Profession in Widnes and District for their loyal co-operation in promptly notifying cases of Infectious or Contagious Disease, and in helping to have the same immediately removed to the Isolation Hospital.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. U. MACLENNAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

 CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS DURING 1896 : -

	Under 5 Years	5 Years and Upwards	Total
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever... ..	2	1	3
Measles	1	0	1
Diphtheria	2	1	3
Whooping Cough	10	0	10
Membranous Croup... ..	2	0	2
Enteric or Typhoid	2	32	34
Continued Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal	0	1	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Cholera, English	0	1	1
Diarrhœa and Dysentry	9	2	11
Rhuematic Fever	0	2	2
Phthisis	3	26	29
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	40	64	104
Heart Disease	0	9	9
Injuries	4	23	27
All other Diseases	125	112	237
			474

ANALYSIS OF THE CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

1896.	WEST BANK.								WATERLOO.								VICTORIA.								SIMM'S CROSS.								HALTON.								FARNWORTH.								Total							
	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Membranous Croup	Typhoid	Continued Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal	Diphtheria	English Cholera	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Membranous Croup	Typhoid	Continued Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal	Diphtheria	English Cholera	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Membranous Croup	Typhoid	Continued Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal	Diphtheria	English Cholera	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Membranous Croup	Typhoid	Continued Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal	Diphtheria	English Cholera																				
January	1	1	1	4	...	2	15	1	8	1	1	36					
February	3	1	2	1	8	...	1	1	2	18								
March	5	1	1	2	4	1	1	...	2	5	...	2	...	2	...	1	1	2	32								
April	1	3	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	9	6	...	3	2	28									
May.....	...	4	2	1	7	1	3	1	1	4	2	26										
June	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	2	...	2	1	...	7	...	1	...	1	2	1	2	25										
July.....	5	1	6	2	1	...	3	...	2	2	...	2	1	...	2	...	2	1	28									
August	31	1	30	1	...	2	2	...	14	...	1	...	2	2	...	2	1	...	2	88											
September	21	16	1	1	3	...	8	...	1	1	4	...	3	1	4	1	...	2	66											
October	6	10	1	2	2	1	2	...	2	2	...	2	35											
November	4	3	1	3	...	2	...	1	1	2	1	2	...	1	24											
December	1	1	1	...	1	3	1	7	...	1	...	1	...	1	3	...	1	4	2	28											
Total	16	3	69	...	6	2	4	70	1	...	1	...	38	1	34	2	10	2	4	1	...	61	2	14	1	10	1	24	1	19	...	5	...	2	1	...	1	12	1	8	...	5	...	2	...	434
Grand Totals	94								78								92								89								52								29															

